SunSystems Report Server

Product Overview

SunSystems
Powering Business Decisions

SunSystems Report Server
Overview

The SunSystems Report Server is a scalable server-based system for generating, managing and securely delivering SunSystems content to website users.

It can:

- Deliver critical business information to a large number of users
- Deliver interactive, actionable content in multiple formats and in a timely fashion
- Easily secure and manage large volumes of content
- Integrate with the existing platform infrastructure

With the Report Server you can:

- Deliver SunSystems reports and documents over the web for viewing using only a browser - zero training environment
- Run one report or document set for all users and control access using Page Level Security
- Schedule when reports and documents run and assign on demand reports with differing priorities depending on the identity of the requester
- Output reports and documents as HTML, DHTML, PDF, XML or even WML
- Scale report delivery to thousands of users with the minimal amount of hardware expenditure
- Integrate SunSystems reports seamlessly into your website and provide personalized views to different users
- Store reports securely in a flexible hierarchical folder system
- Alert users to new reports
- Automate the versioning and archiving of reports
- Use existing SunSystems, LDAP or other security with a single log-in
- View reports one page at a time for optimal performance over the web
- Use the same powerful search and export facilities over the web as in a client-server environment

The SunSystems Report Server is powered by Actuate's Advanced Report Server which includes ReportCast™ technology for delivery of mission-critical business information to your customers, partners, and employees. SunSystems 5 uses Actuate technology to generate and print all reports and commercial documents. According to META Groups David Folger, this is "…the ONLY solution that can meet all the challenges and IT requirements for corporate information delivery".

No matter what your solution requirements, Report Server can deliver content in a way that meets the needs of your website users.

SunSystems Report Server

Organization of Information

The Report Server's security and administration features will simplify the task of managing large volumes of content. The server provides a secure encyclopedia in which multiple versions of content can be created, organized hierarchically and securely distributed.

SunSystems reports and documents can be stored on the server in a hierarchical content repository. Organizing content in this manner makes it easier to manage large numbers of reports and documents.

The Report Server supports the explicit storage of multiple versions of the same report. Versioning allows you to maintain different instances of individual SunSystems reports and documents that show information relevant to different users or across different time periods. Policy-based archiving makes it easy to manage the contents of the Report Server.

Flexible Information Delivery

Format

Delivering business information to your customers, partners and employees precisely at the needed time and in the desired format is critical to the success of e-business solutions. The Report Server can convert and deliver a report in a number of different formats based on the user or application request. A single report can be delivered in HTML and DHTML format for visual use, Adobe PDF format for printing and XML for electronic processing including SunSystems Connect payloads. The Report Server's scheduling mechanism for generating new content and the multiple means of notifying users that new content is available means that you'll have total flexibility in determining how you deliver information to users.

Detail

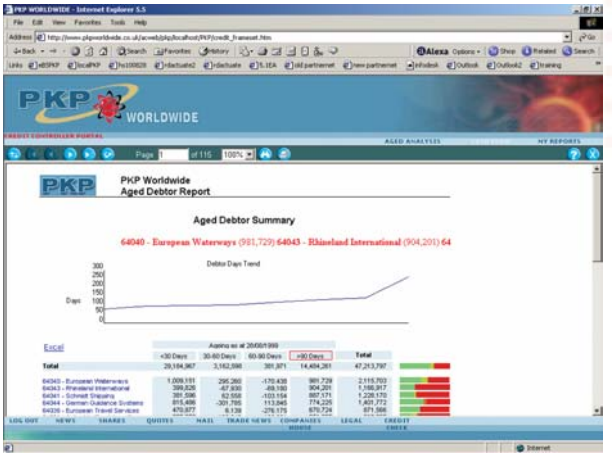
The content delivered by the Report Server is highly interactive. Users can drill to detailed business data or other content in their web solution or the Internet. Default navigation and content searching facilities make it simple for users to find the precise information they are seeking. Report content is actionable, allowing users to update information on SunSystems reports and documents, initiate transactions, or manage workflow.

Notification

ReportCast channels offer a targeted mechanism for notifying large user populations that new report content is available for their review. Any number of channels can be configured on the server (e.g. for different business areas or locations).

Personalization

The Report Server's elegant and powerful Page Level Security mechanism offers secure, personalized views of information contained in a single document and produced by a single query. The number of individual SunSystems reports and documents that need to be created and managed is minimized, significantly reducing the administrative burden, with the added benefit of offering personalized views of content.



This webpage is a credit controllers summary view of debtors which graphically displays the trend in the debtor days and contains personalized links.

Timing

The Report Server is capable of delivering both on-demand and cached content to the web. Based on the needs of the user and the situation, you can specify whether data sources should be accessed in real-time as the content is requested, or whether users should view cached SunSystems reports and documents where the data sources have been queried ahead of time. The Report Server incorporates an advanced scheduling mechanism that allows administrators to specify the frequency with which individual SunSystems reports and documents are generated.

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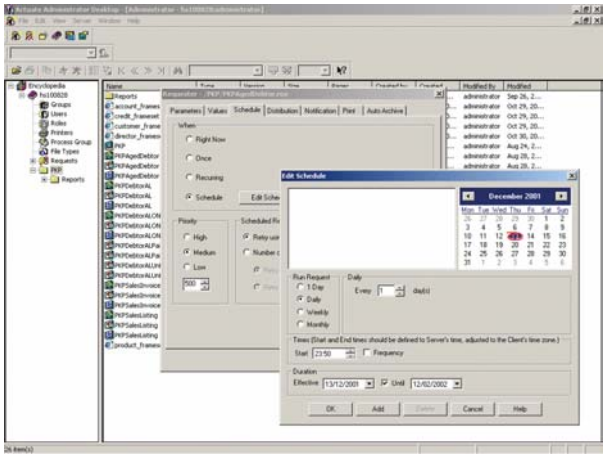
Distribution of workload

With support for scheduled content generation, caching, as well as on-demand content generation, you can control the load against your data sources while meeting your e-business solution's requirements for delivering information on a timely basis.

The Report Server handles the processing for a number of end-user interactive viewing features. This eliminates the need to download applets or large volumes of data to browsers. Operations such as demand paging, NavBar generation, PDF generation and SmartSearch are performed by the server. By default, the Report Server converts and delivers content a single page at a time in order to maximize performance.

The Report Server's architecture enables SunSystems 5 to easily meet the challenge of delivering business information to a large user base.



This is a view of the adminsitrator desktop The screen shows how the Report Server's powerful scheduling features are used to determine the time at which reports will be run.

Security

E-business solutions must deliver large volumes of information to large numbers of users. The Report Server makes managing this task straightforward, without compromising the security of corporate data. All content on the Report Server is secured through either Actuate's role-based security system, which can be generated from SunSystems Operator Groups, or your existing user administration systems.

Integration

The Report Server offers many features to leverage the components and services used to build the rest of your e-business platform. Due to the server's URL-based architecture, SunSystems reports and documents can be seamlessly integrated with the rest of your web solution.

The server's Open Security Directory Integration feature enables you to secure report content with user information defined in external security protocols, such as LDAP. This integration eliminates the need to replicate user and security information across multiple systems, making user administration a scalable process.

User information including authorization, authentication, roles, and access privileges can be externalized. As you define, change and control user access via a central directory to your other computing resources (email systems, applications, file servers, etc.), you can also control user access to the Report Server.

The Report Server can access any SunSystems 5 data source to create reports and documents. SunSystems 5 reporting provides native connectivity to Microsoft SQL Server and Oracle in addition to ODBC connectivity.

With Open Server, you can use the Report Server to execute, secure, store and distribute reports created with other tools. The Open Server model is fully extensible, allowing anything from Crystal Reports to proprietary legacy COBOL reports to be managed by a single system and ease the transition to Actuate based report designs.

The Report Server's open architecture allows it to run on a variety of platforms, access any data source including Enterprise JavaBeans, manage third-party content and use SunSystems, web or operating system level security. The Report Server therefore allows you to fully leverage your existing investments in your efforts to deliver mission-critical business information to your customers, partners, and employees.

The Report Server is available on a wide range of platforms, allowing you to leverage existing hardware investments. The Report Server is available on IBM's AIX, HP-UX, Windows NT and Sun Solaris platforms.

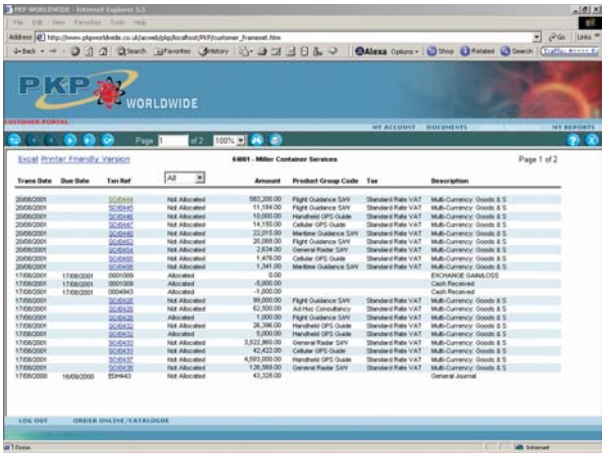
SunSystems Report Server

Scalability

The Report Server scales to meet the needs of today's demanding e-business solutions.

The server is capable of handling up to a million hits per day per CPU. Concurrent requests for content generation can be handled with exceptional response times due to the server architecture. Users can view and interact with SunSystems reports and documents using browsers without any applets or plug-ins, allowing easy internet deployment to large user populations. Interactive features like content navigation and searching are handled by the Report Server, resulting in efficient network bandwidth usage.

The Report Server's availability on both Windows NT and popular UNIX platforms means that linear scalability is possible as processors are added; by doubling the number of processors, the system can support twice as many users. This functionality, along with a multi-threaded Parallel Pipeline architecture, means the Report Server can scale to deliver unparalleled report generation and viewing performance. Administering a large user base and large volumes of content is simplified thanks to the server's Open Security Directory Integration feature and content management capabilities.



This webpage shows a customer statement delivered to a browser. It Illustrates how the scaleability of Report Server can support delivery of information, such as account statements, to all your customers.

Technical Requirements

Windows NT 4.0 Server, Windows 2000 Server and Advanced Server:

- Processor: Pentium 133 or higher
- Memory: 128 Mb
- Disk Space: 100 Mb

Solaris 2.6, 7, 8:

- Processor: UltraSPARC-I, II, IIi, III; microSPARC-II, IIep
- Memory: 128 Mb
- Disk Space: 512 Mb

HP-UX 10.20, 11:

- Processor: PA-RISC 1.0 or 1.1 (e.g., PA 7300LC), PA-RISC 2.0 (e.g., PA 8000)
- Memory: 128 Mb
- Disk Space: 512 Mb

AIX 4.3.2, 4.3.3:

- Processor: PowerPC
- Memory: 128 Mb
- Disk Space: 512 Mb

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